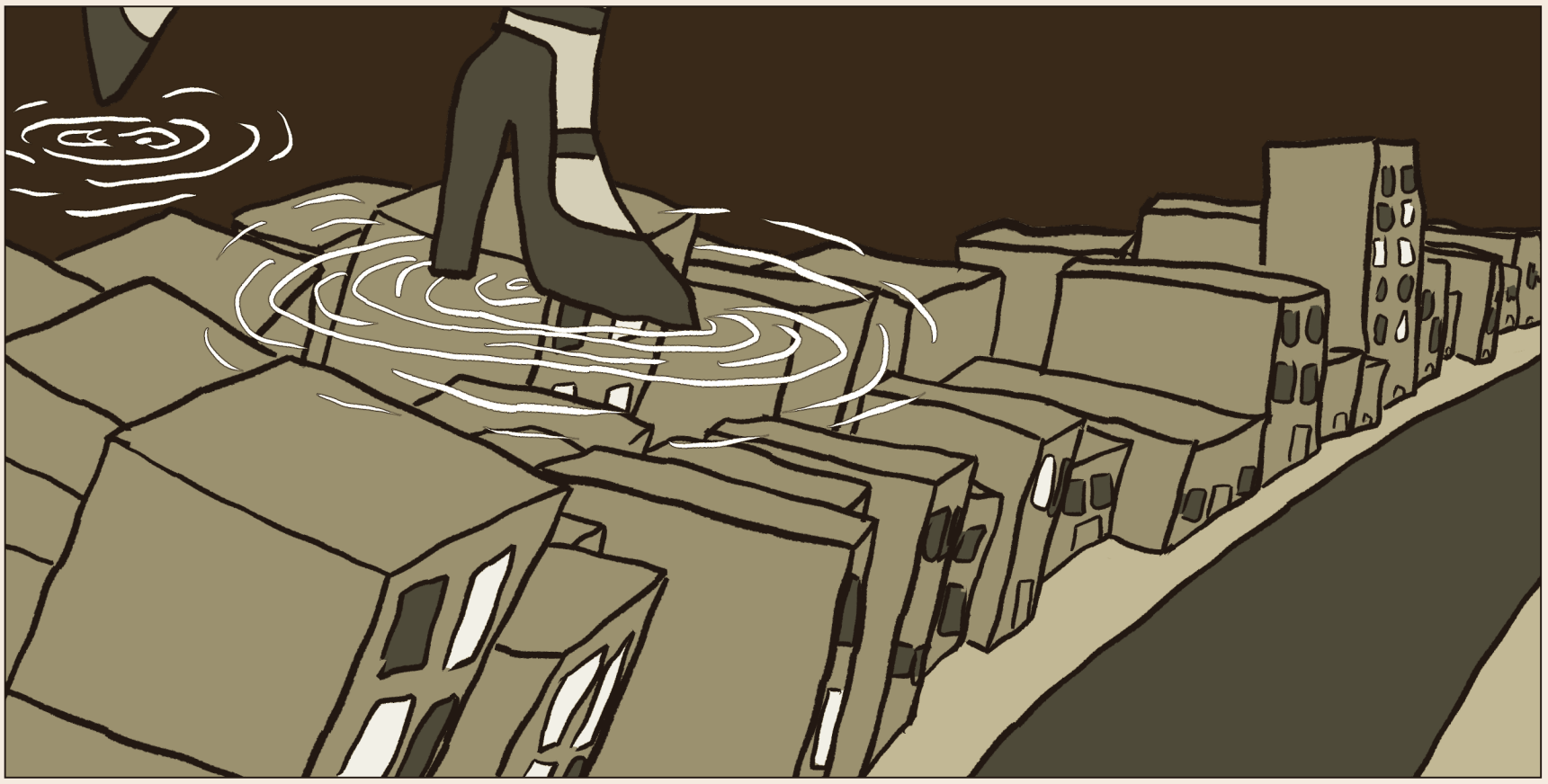
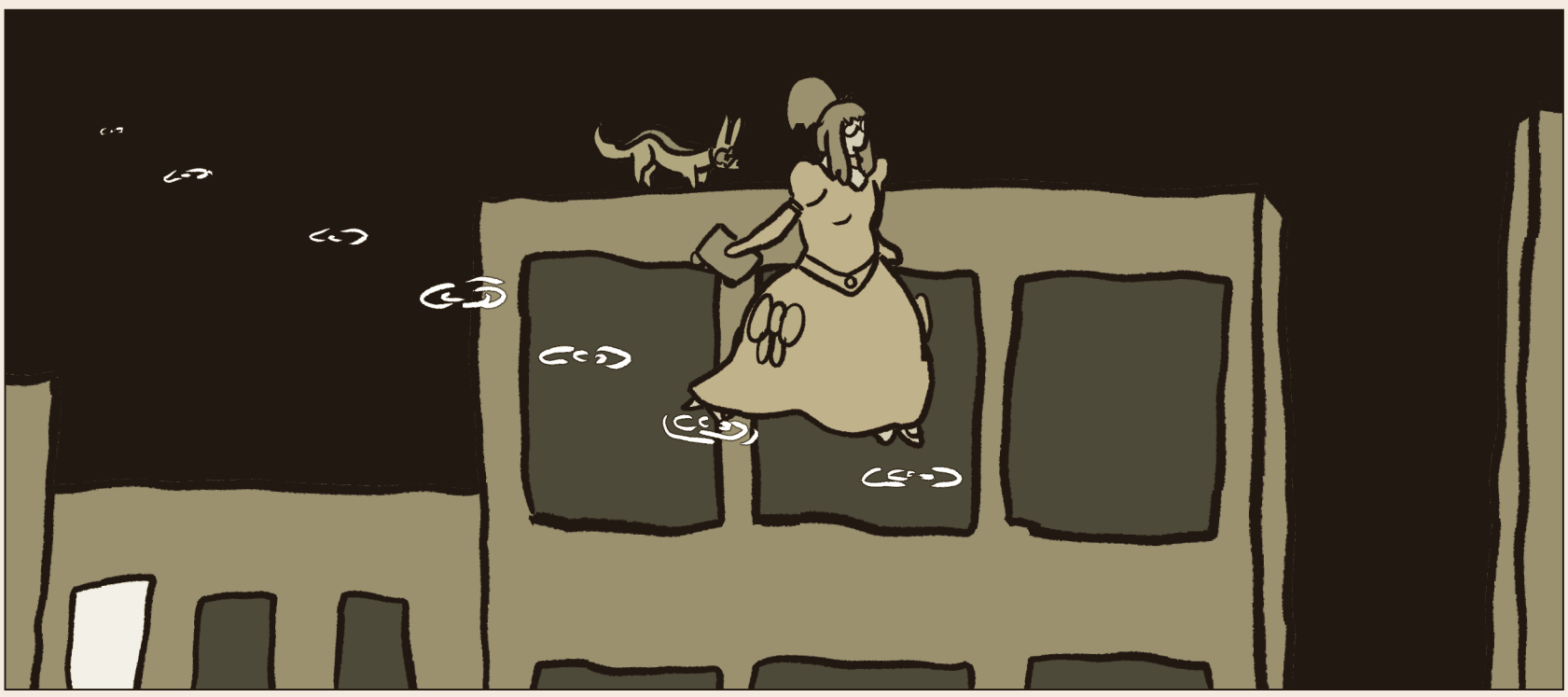
CHAPTER
5



ARE WE CLOSE TO IT?

JUST A LITTLE FARTHER.
THE FEELING IS GETTING STRONGER.



YOU'RE NOT LEADING ME TO A HOPELESS DEN, ARE YOU?

NO...

THIS FEELING IS NEW. IT'S DIFFERENT.

WE'RE CLOSE NOW.

BE PREPARED FOR ANYTHING, CYRUS.

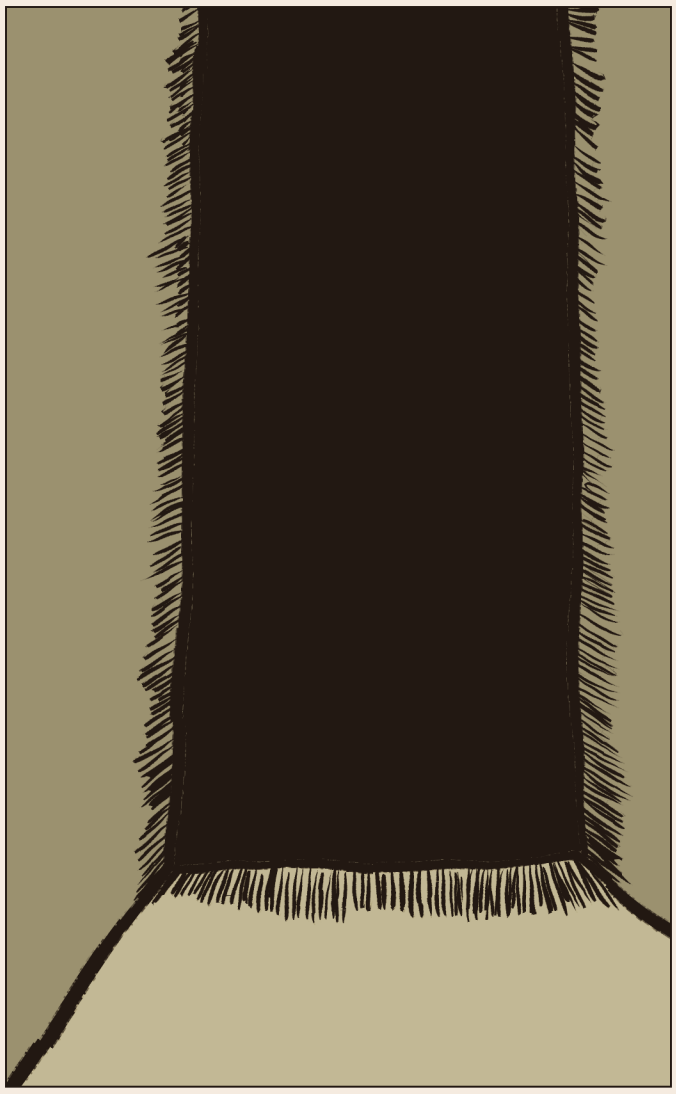
I TOLD YOU, CALL ME SUMMER WHEN I'M LIKE THIS.

WHAT IF SOMEONE RECOGNIZED ME?

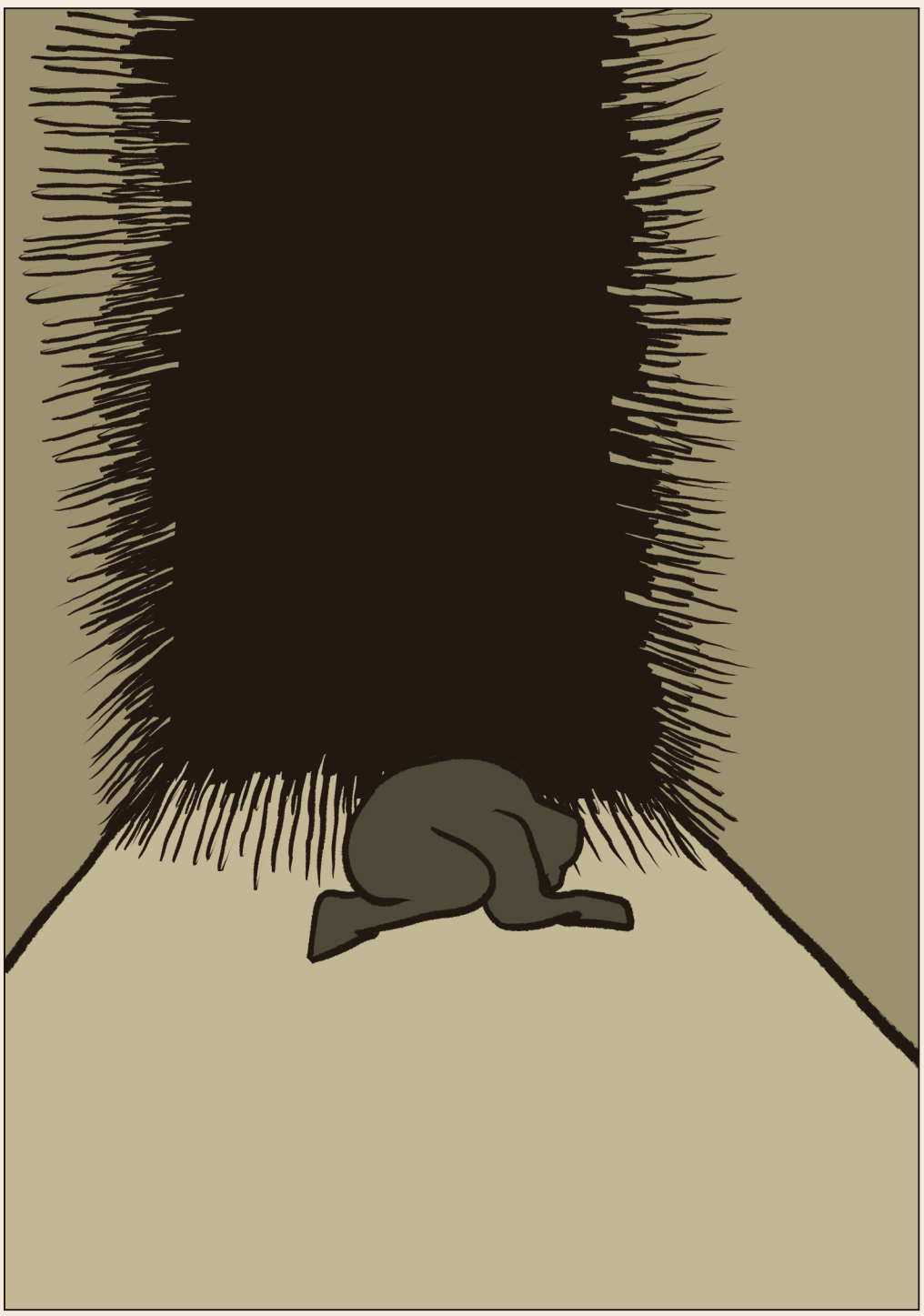
Stare

SIGH~

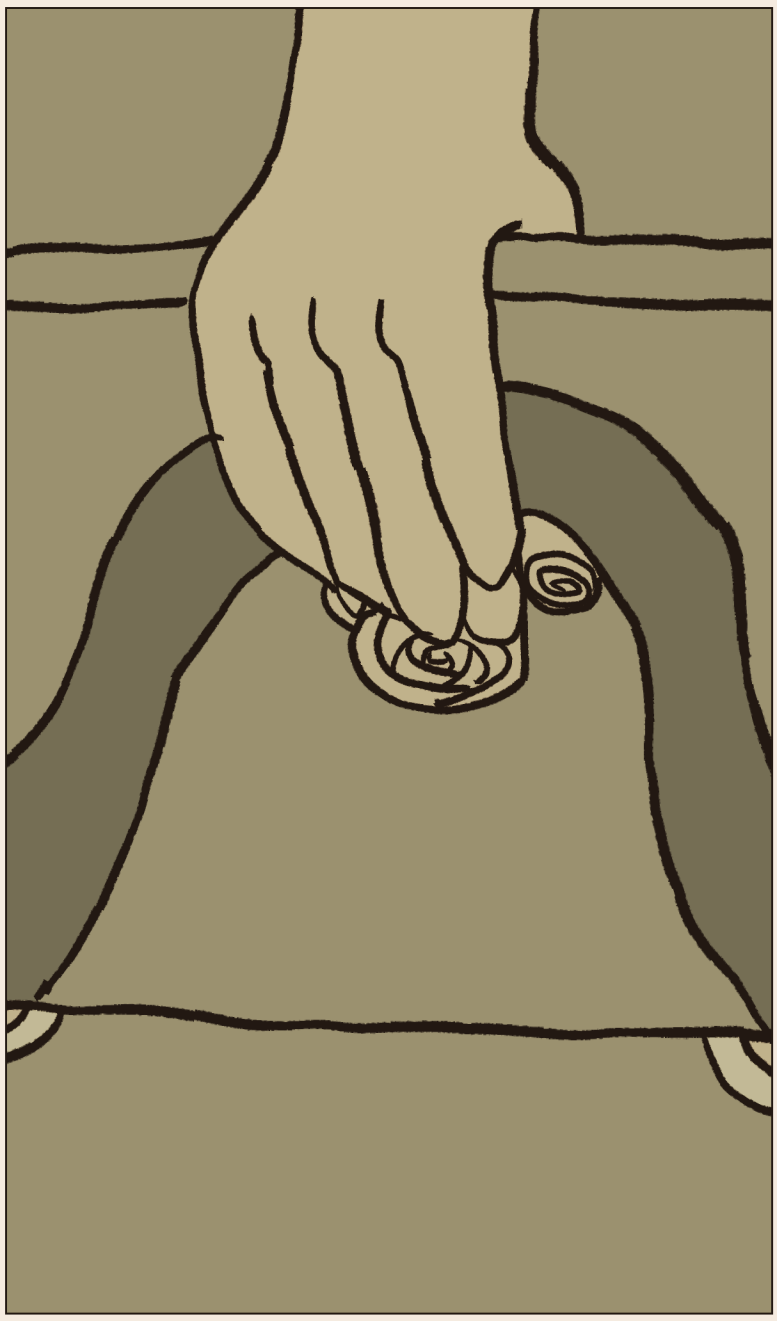
WELL, LET'S SEE WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.



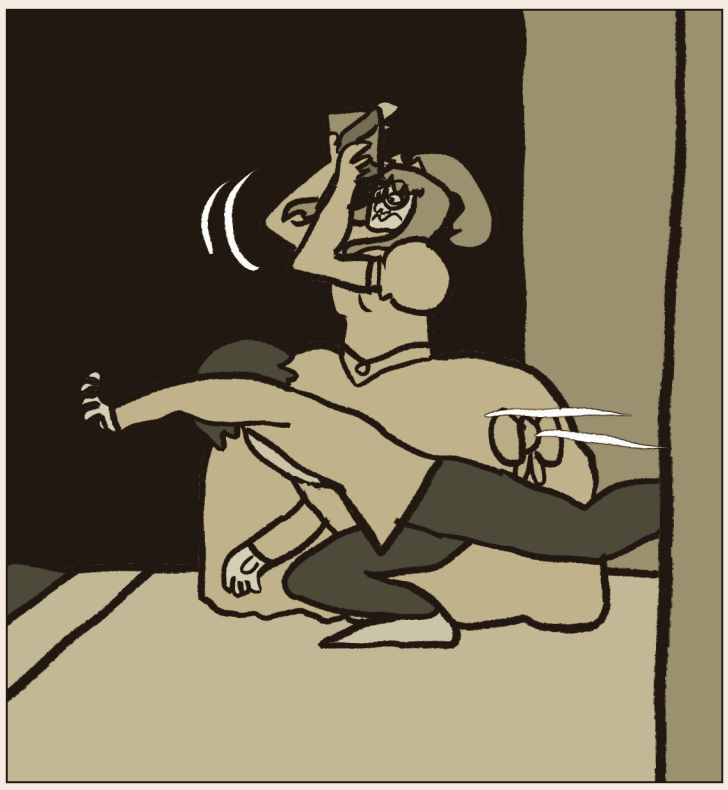
LEAN



UM...
ARE- ARE YOU
ALRIGHT?



WATCH OUT!!



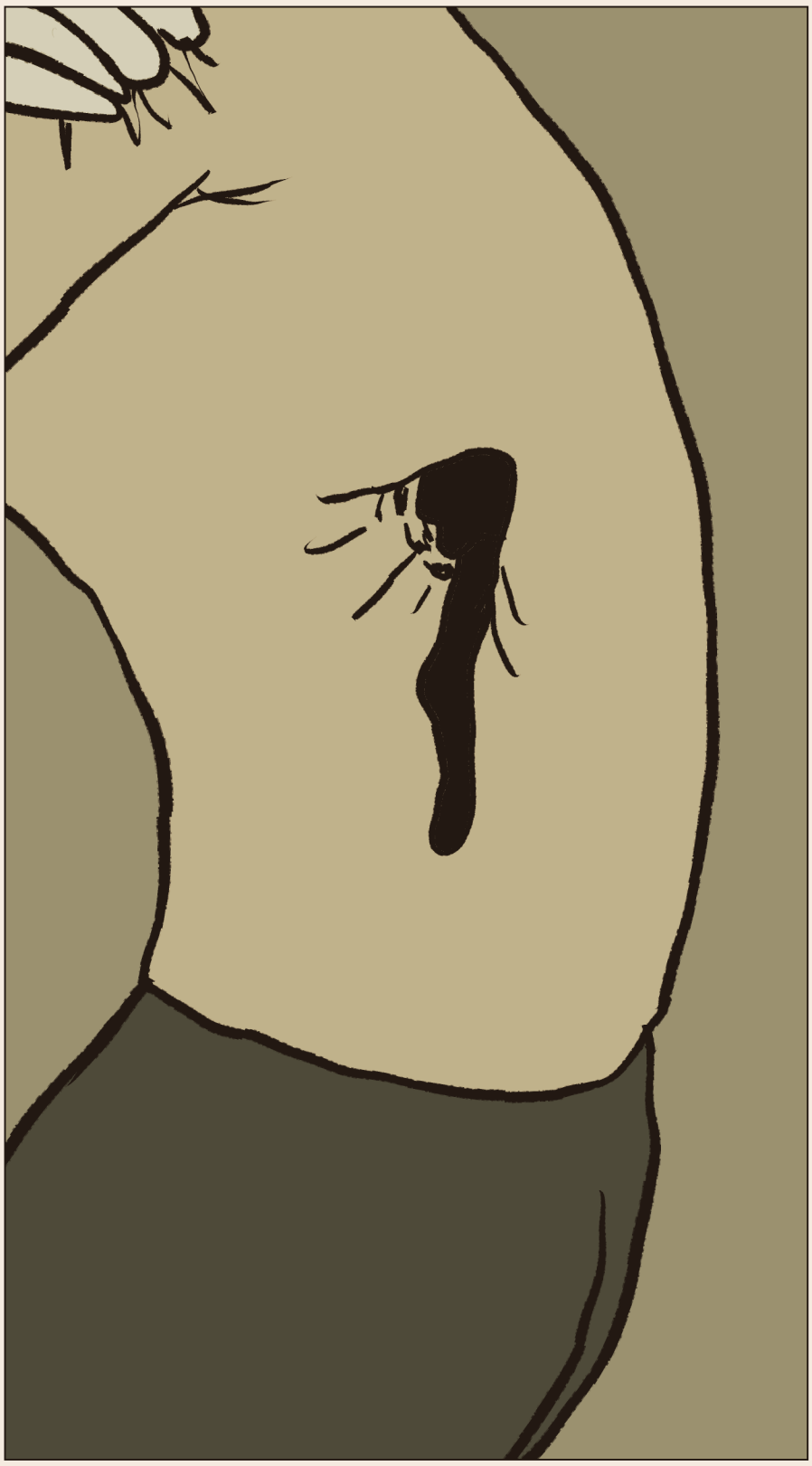
AAAAAAAA

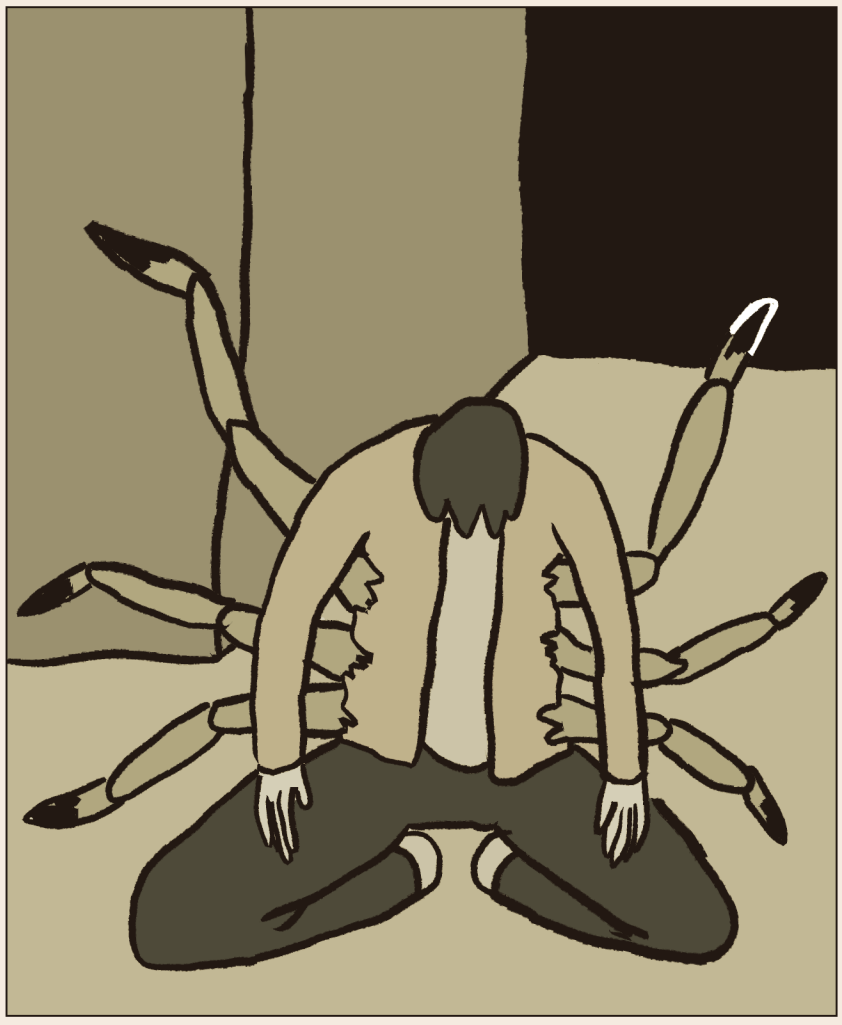
IS EVERYTHING OKAY?!

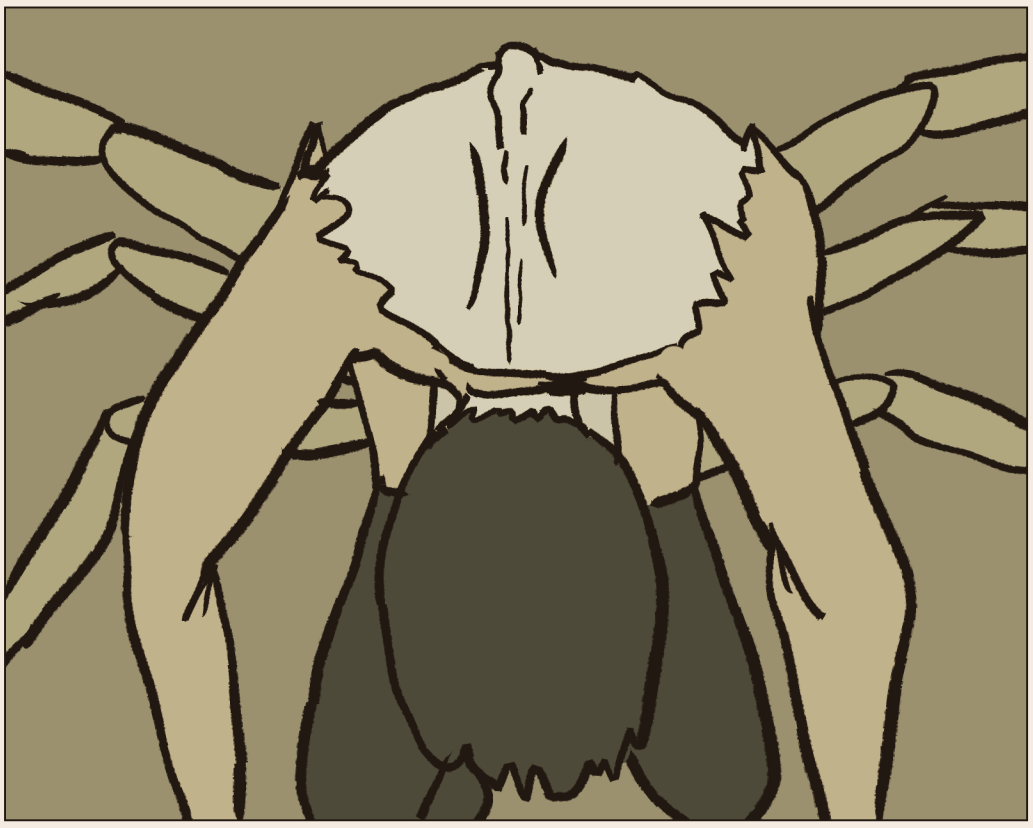
ARE YOU HURT?!

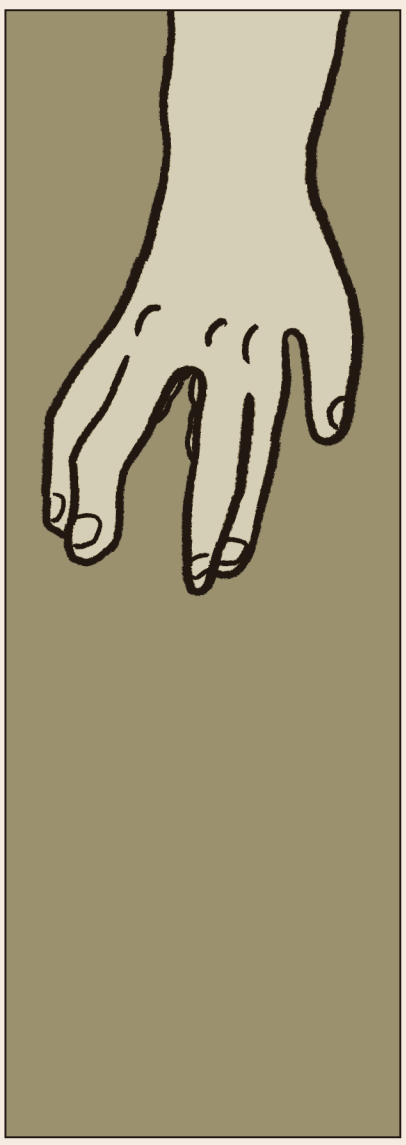
TOPAZ! CAN I HEAL OTHER PEOPLE?!

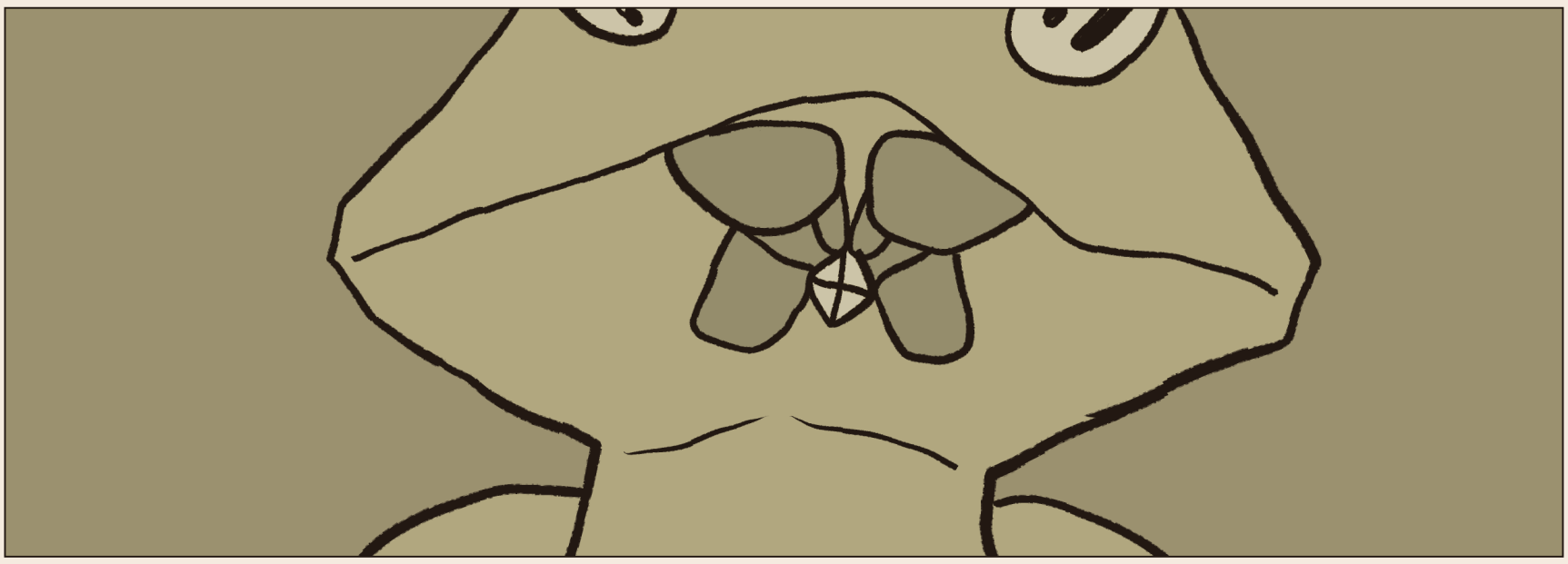
I- I DON'T THINK SO.

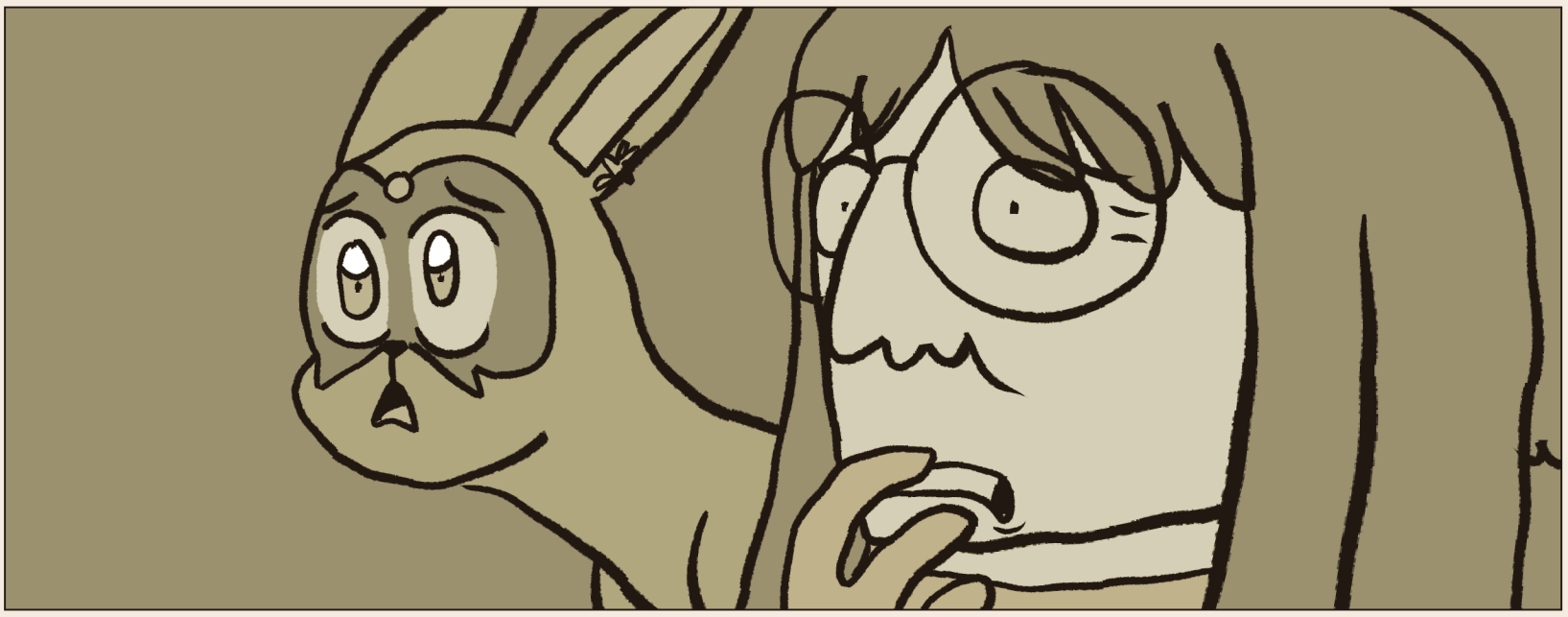


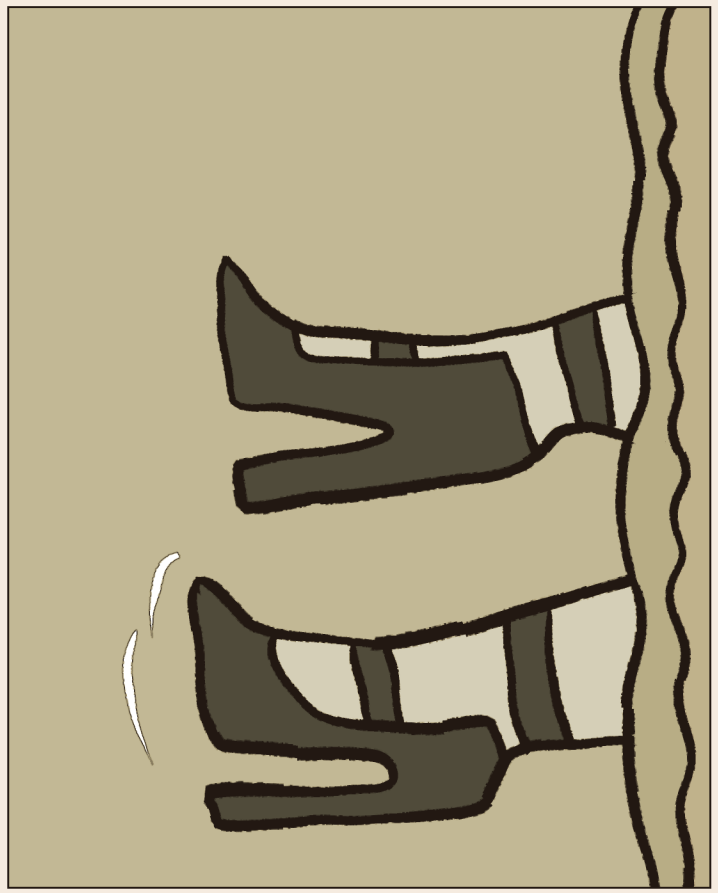


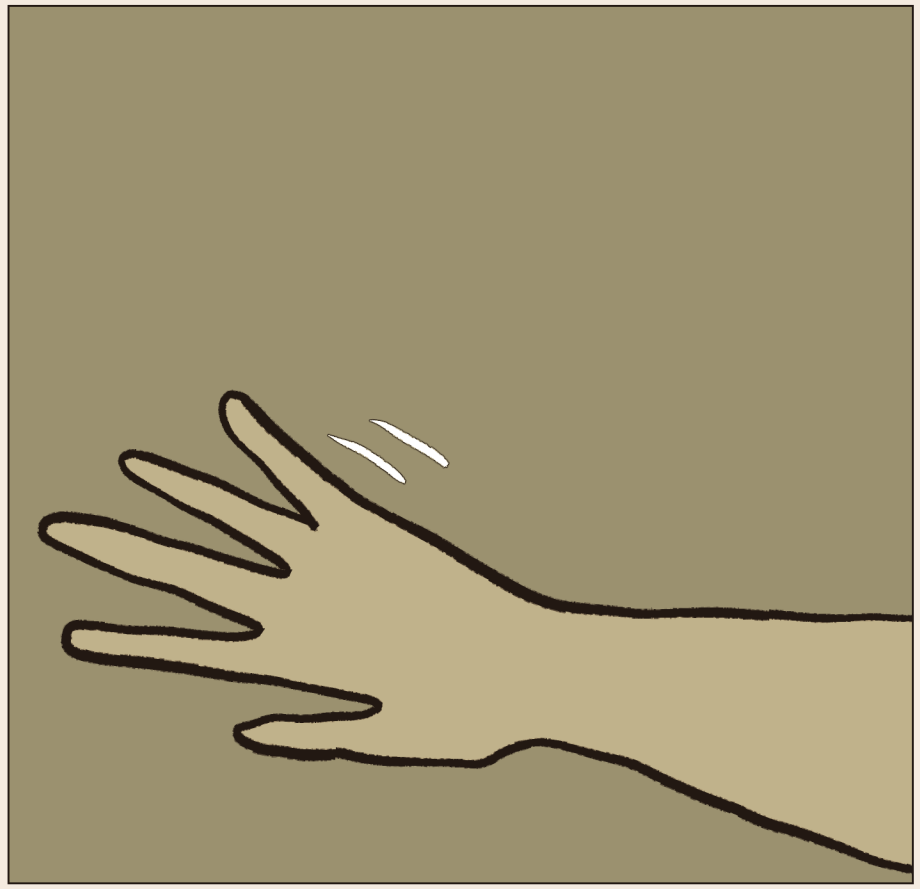












SCREECH
W-WAIT!
SUMMER!!

SNAP

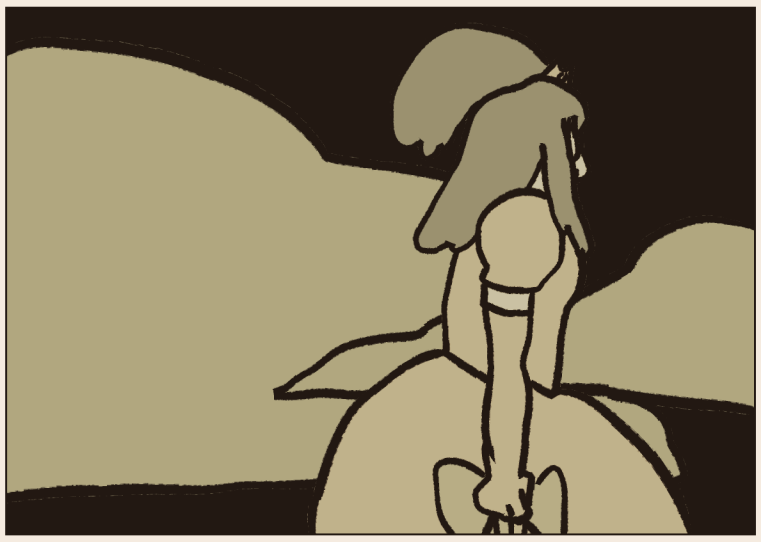
SUMMER!
YOU CAN'T
JUST LEAVE!
YOU NEED TO
DEFEAT IT!

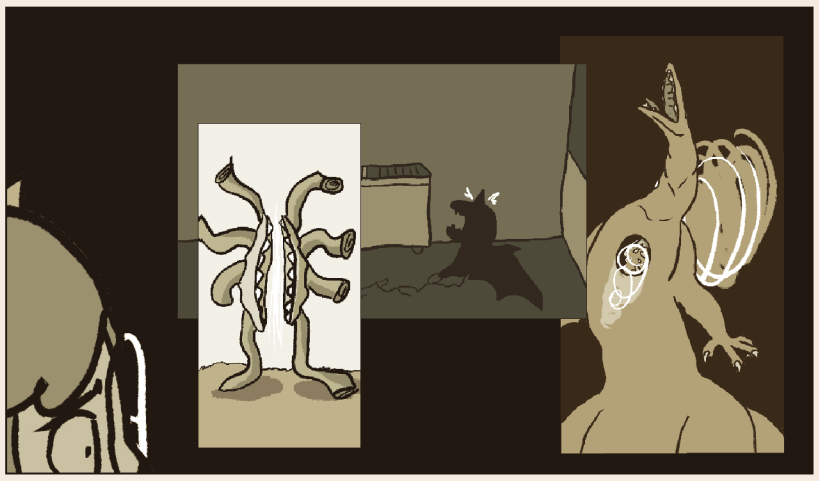
NO! I CAN'T!
I CAN'T KILL THEM!

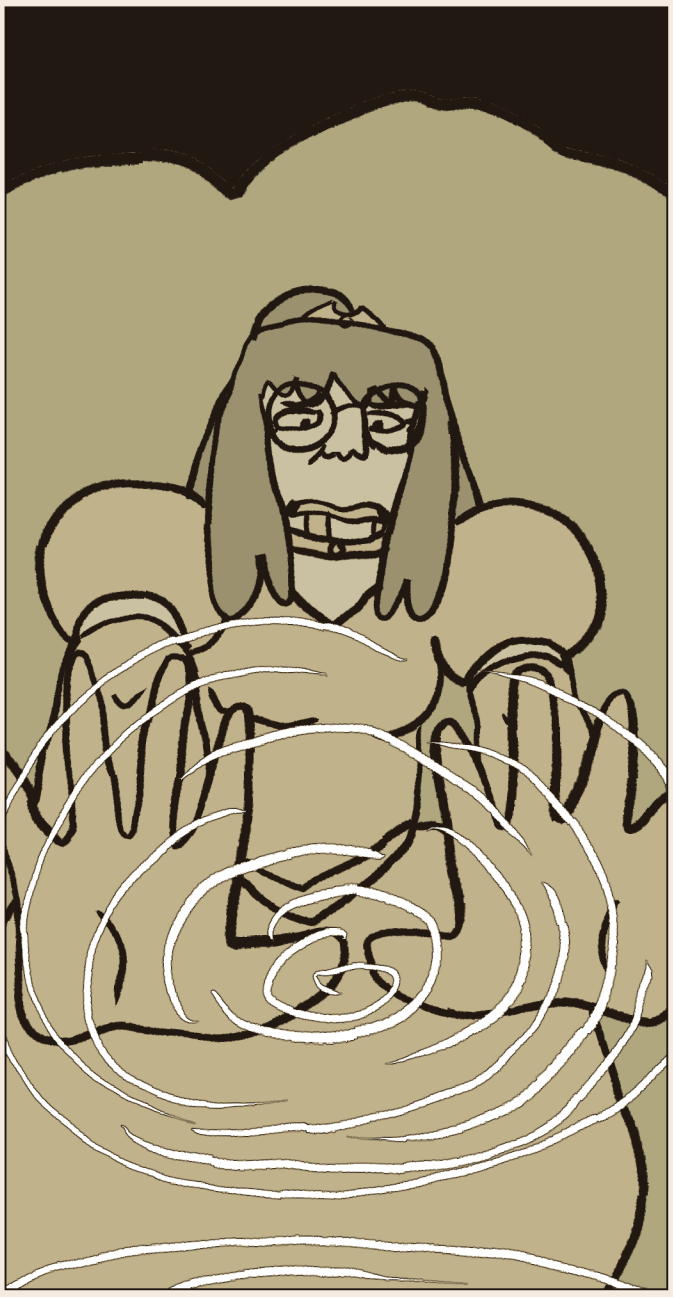
BUT IT COULD
HURT SOMEBODY!
IT COULD KILL
ANOTHER PERSON!

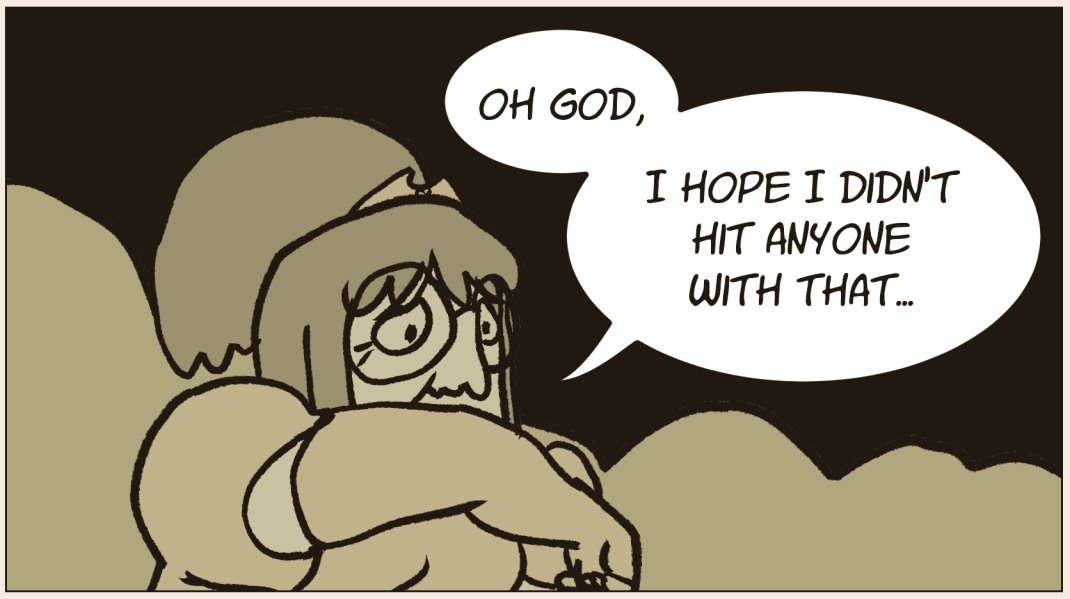
I DON'T WANT
THAT ON YOUR
CONSCIOUS!

I-I ALREADY HAVE
ENOUGH ON MY
CONSCIOUS RIGHT
NOW! I-I- ALREADY
KILLED-

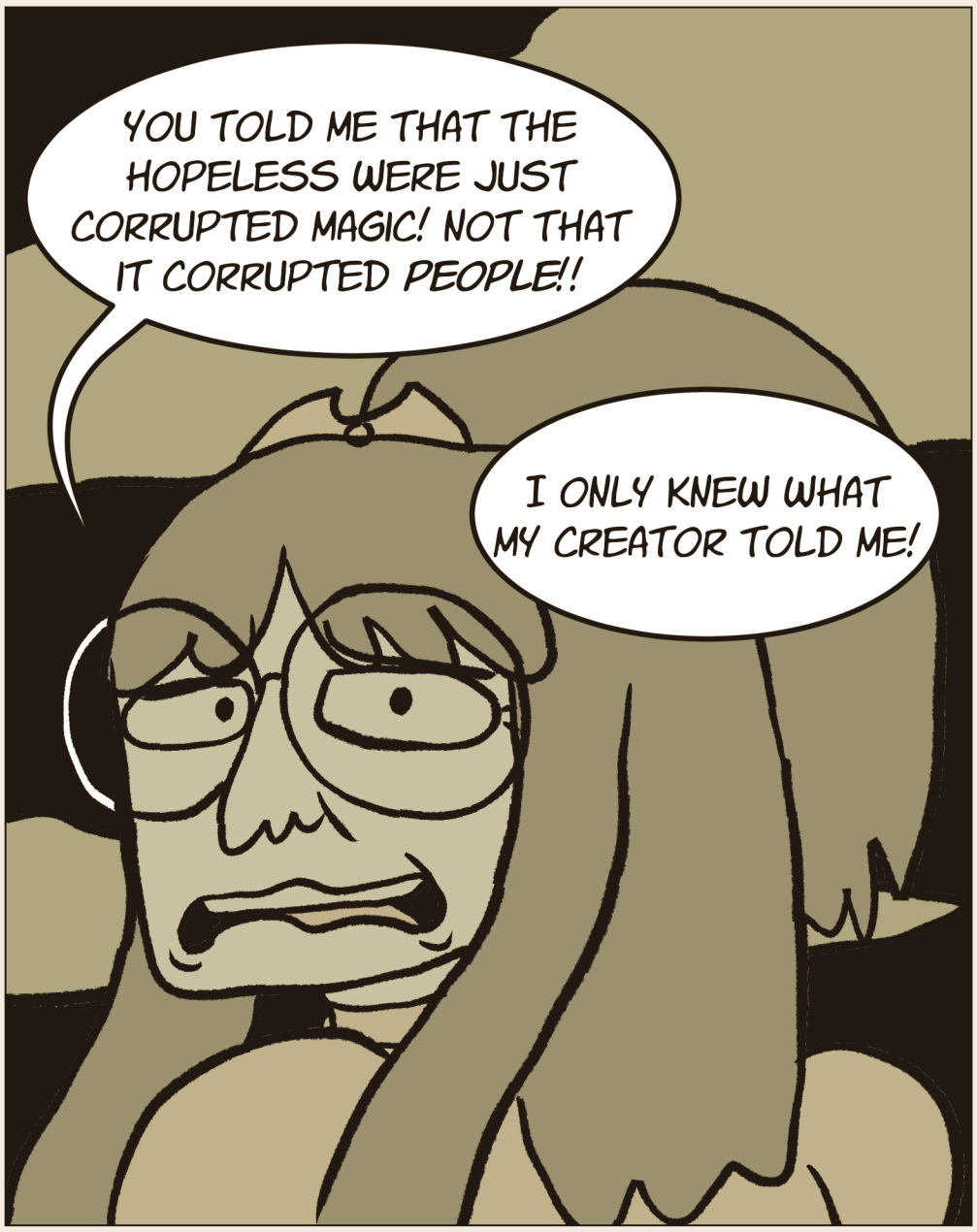







OH GOD,
I HOPE I DIDN'T HIT ANYONE WITH THAT...

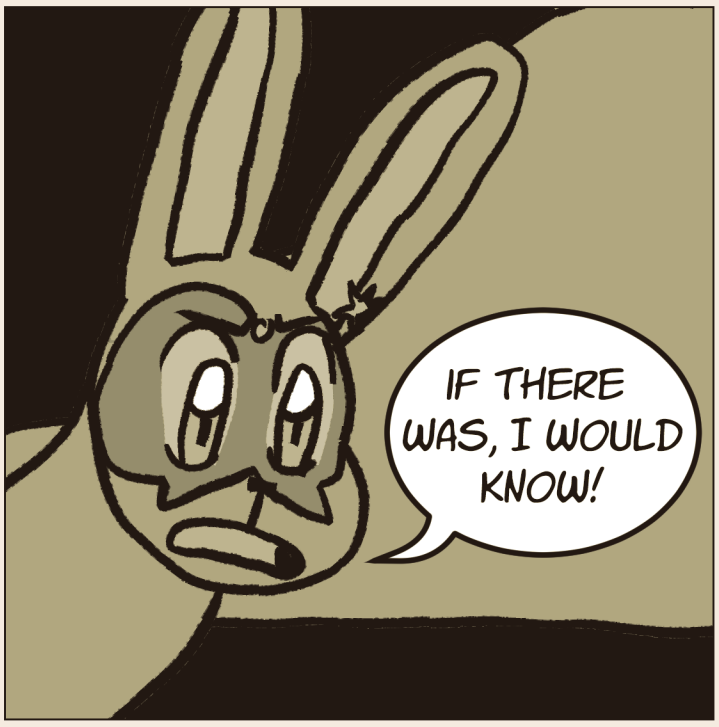
YOU NEED TO GO BACK, PLEASE!
I CAN'T!!

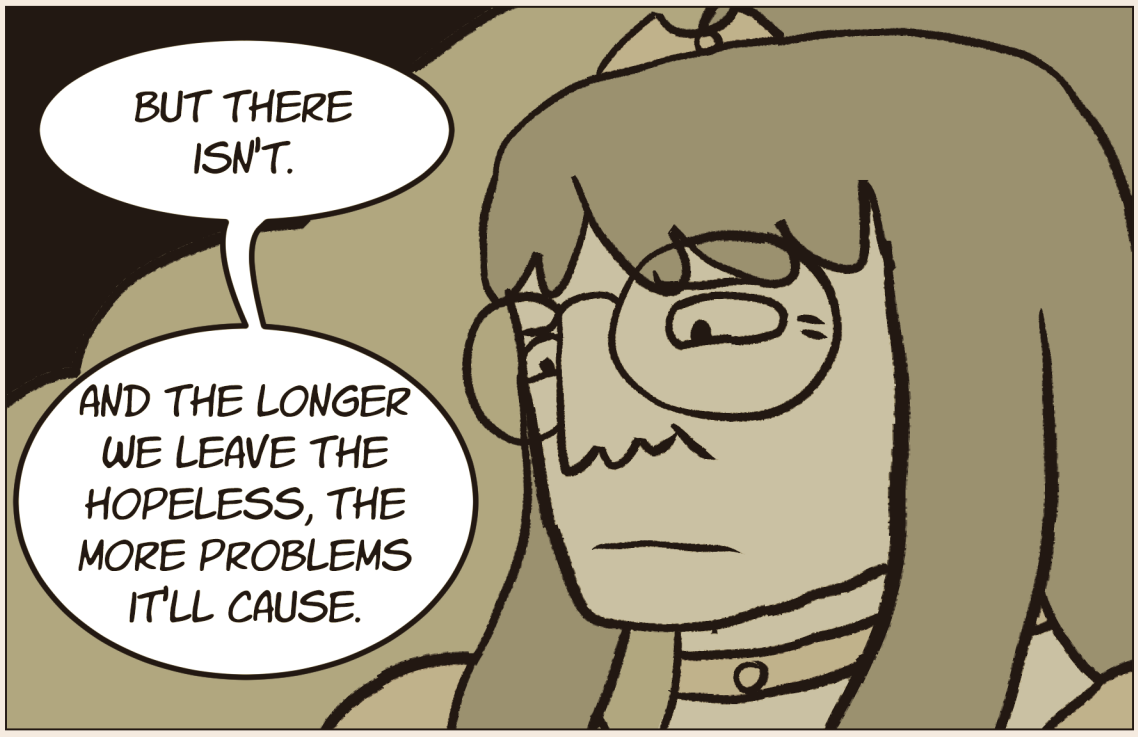

YOU TOLD ME THAT THE HOPELESS WERE JUST CORRUPTED MAGIC! NOT THAT IT CORRUPTED PEOPLE!!
I ONLY KNEW WHAT MY CREATOR TOLD ME!

BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER.
A HOPELESS IS A HOPELESS.
IT'LL HURT PEOPLE IF WE DON'T DEAL WITH IT.

YOU CAN'T EXPECT ME TO KILL THEM NOW!
I REFUSE! I CAN'T DO IT!

THERE HAS TO BE ANOTHER WAY.


IF THERE WAS, I WOULD KNOW!


BUT THERE ISN'T.
AND THE LONGER WE LEAVE THE HOPELESS, THE MORE PROBLEMS IT'LL CAUSE.

NO.

SUMMER!!

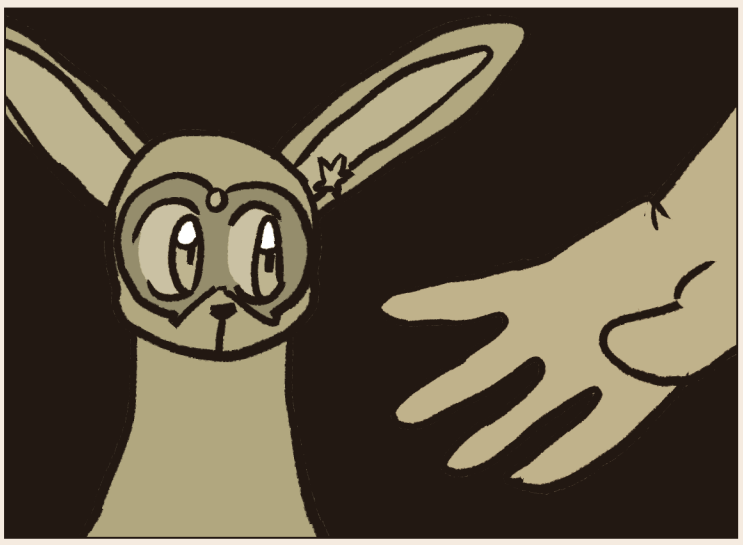
I SAID NO!!

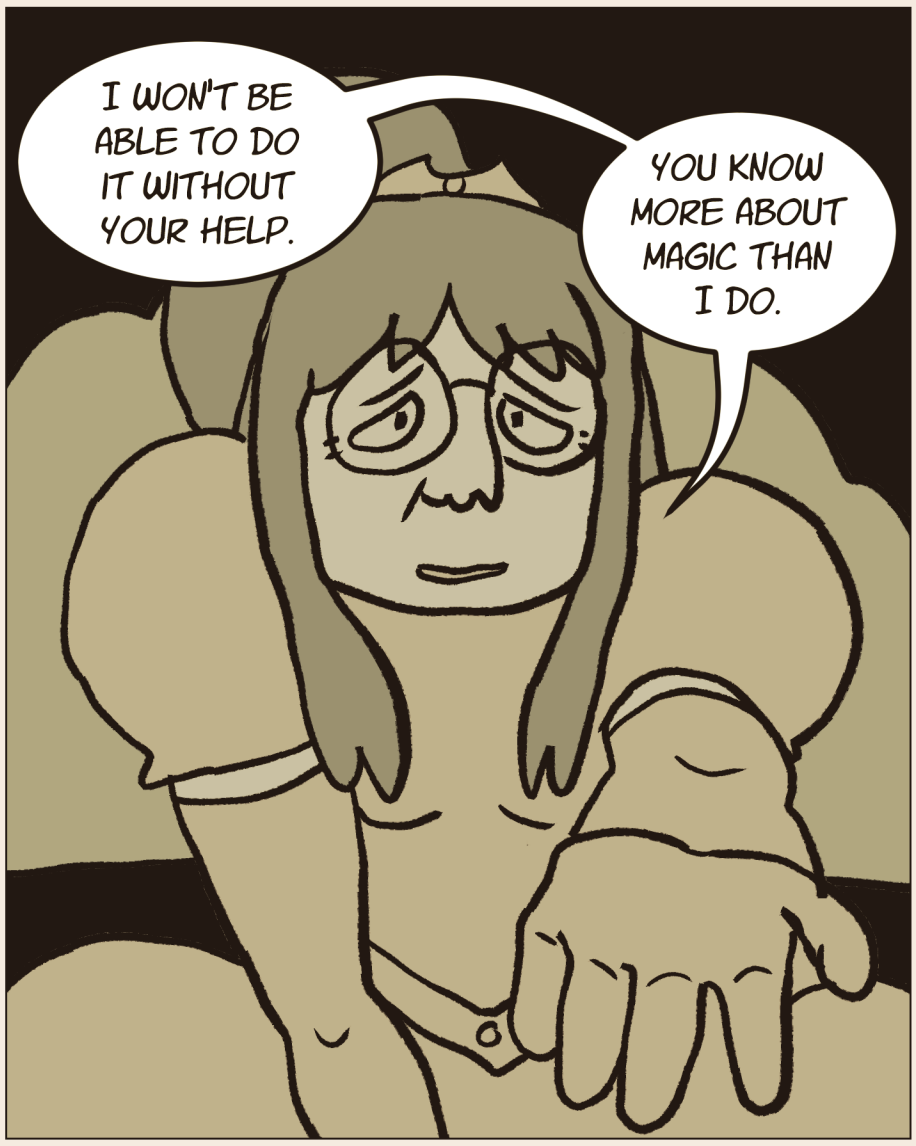
flinch

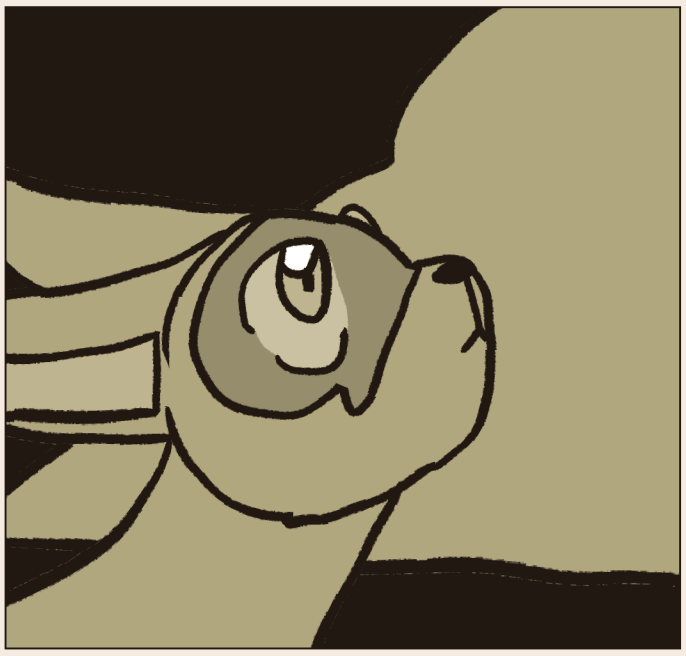
NOT UNTIL I EXHAUST EVERY OTHER OPTION!

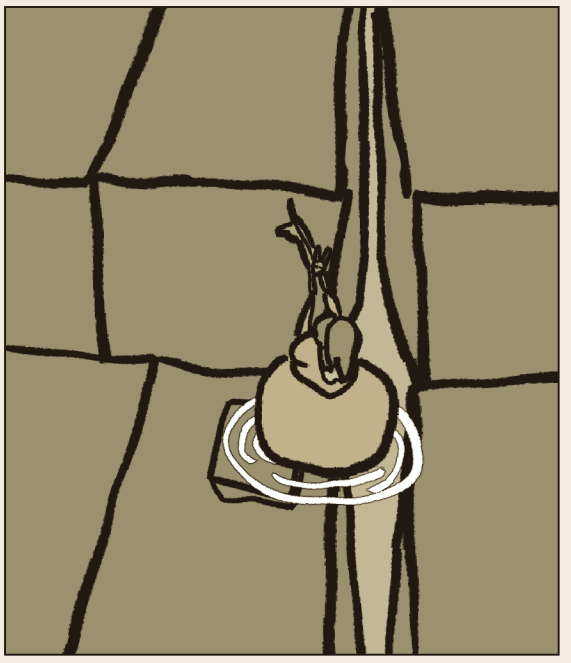
I'M SORRY.

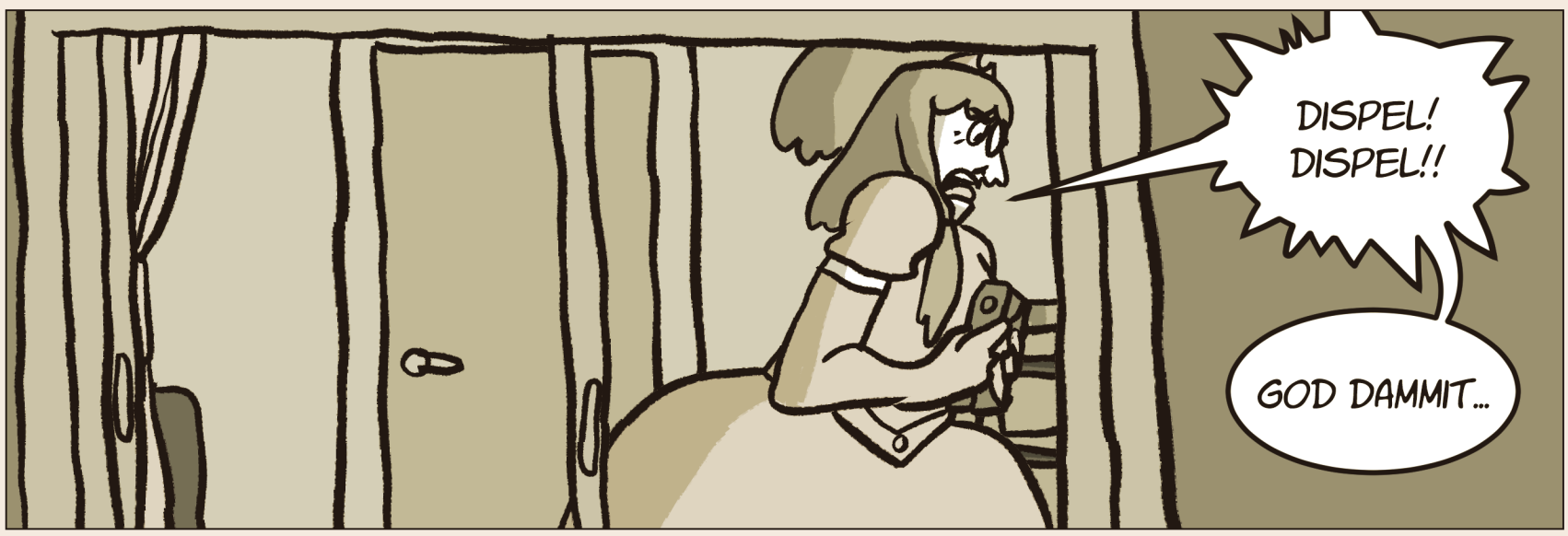
BUT I WON'T BACK DOWN ON THIS.




I WON'T BE ABLE TO DO IT WITHOUT YOUR HELP.
YOU KNOW MORE ABOUT MAGIC THAN I DO.

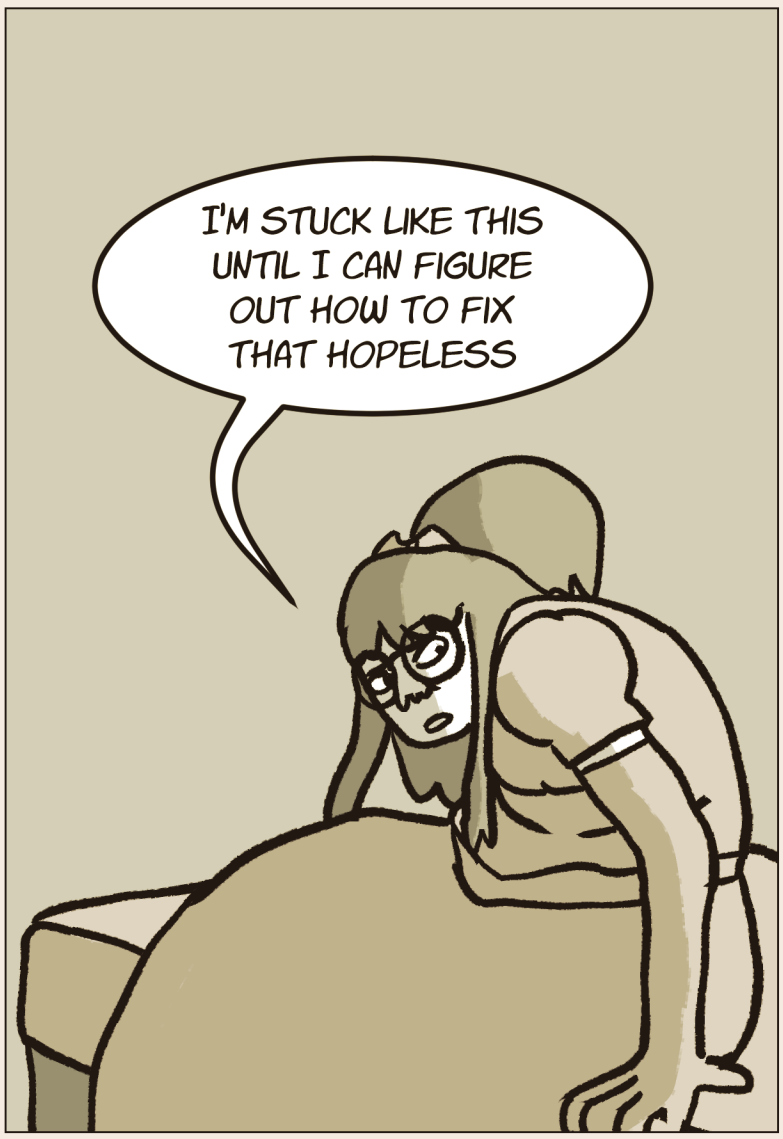




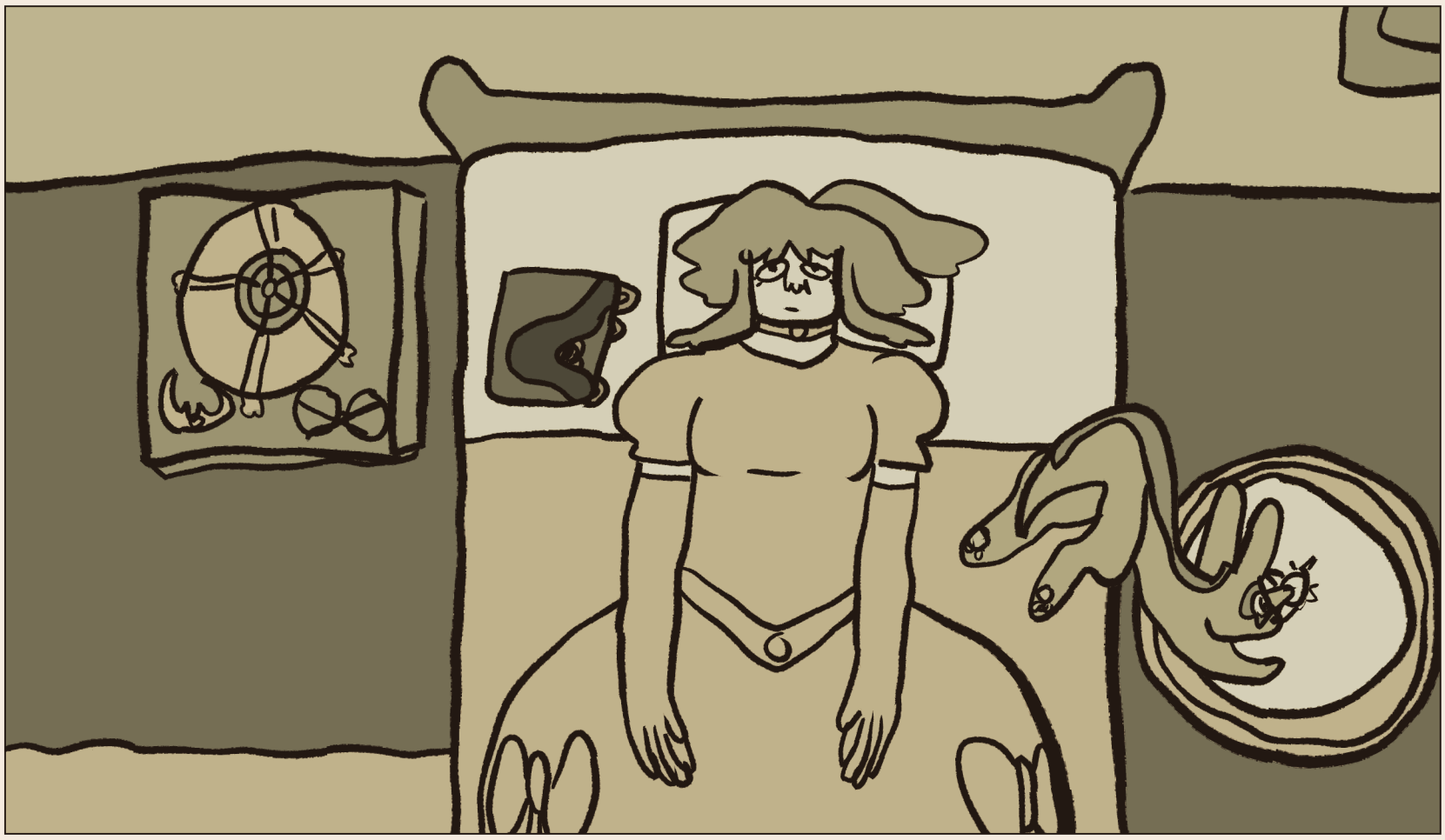

DISPEL! DISPEL!!
GOD DAMMIT...

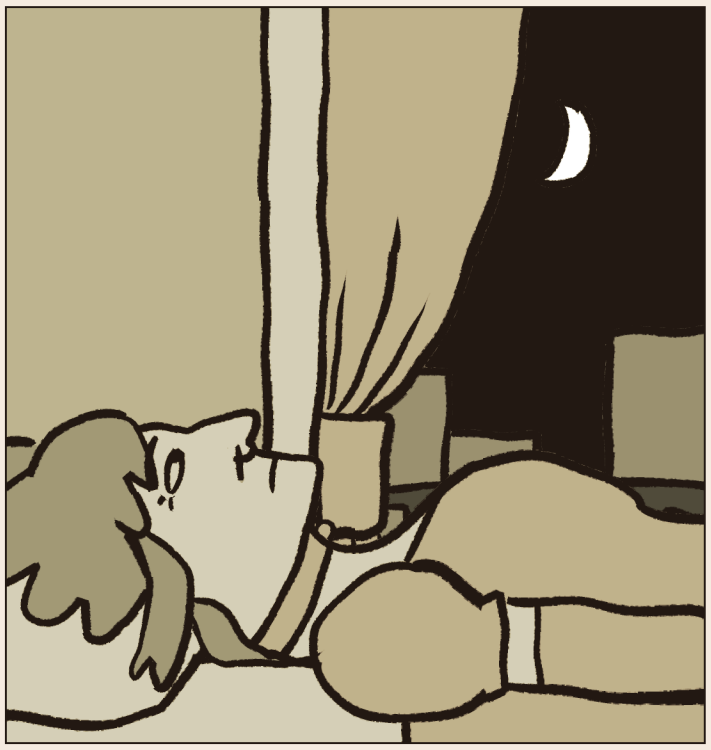
WHY CAN'T I CHANGE BACK NOW?
YOU HAVEN'T ACCOMPLISHED A GOAL, REMEMBER?

GREAT. I HAVE WORK IN THE MORNING!

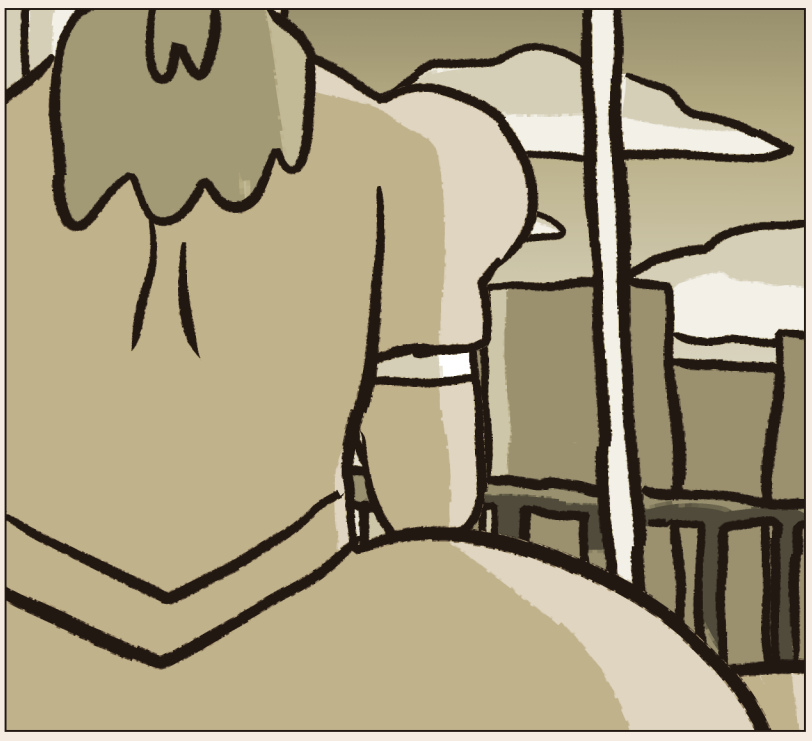

I'M STUCK LIKE THIS UNTIL I CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO FIX THAT HOPELESS

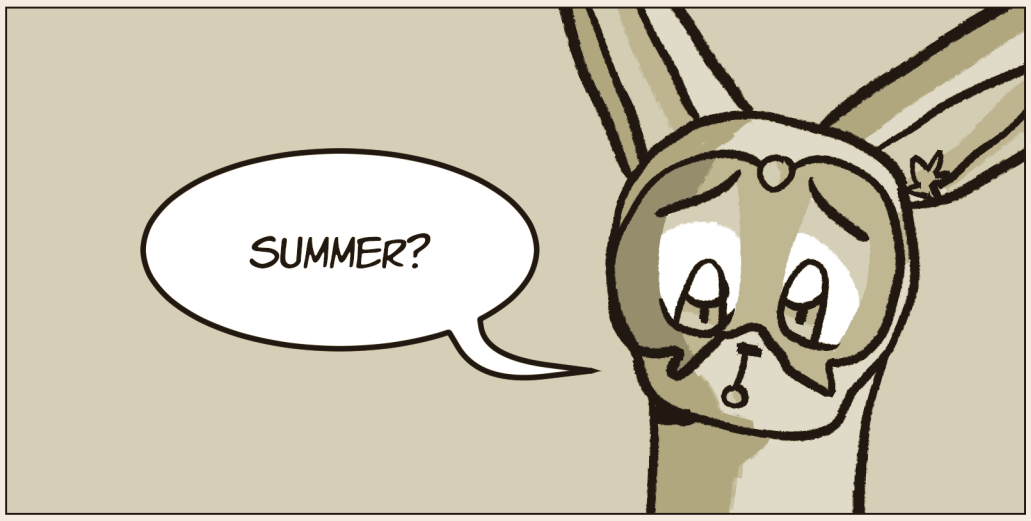
SIGH





YEAH, SORRY. I CAN'T COME IN TODAY.
I'M NOT FEELING WELL. NO, IT'S NOT- NOT THIS TIME, I PROMISE. I'M JUST SICK




SUMMER?

CYRU-
WHAT?

JUST...
ARE YOU OKAY?

OF COURSE
I'M NOT!
OF COURSE!

TOPAZ, ALL THIS TIME, I'VE BEEN- BEEN... *KILLING* PEOPLE.

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO BE OKAY WITH THAT?!

DID YOUR CREATOR KNOW?

WAS *HE* OKAY WITH SACRIFICING INNOCENT LIVES BECAUSE- BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T LOOK HUMAN ANYMORE?

HE WOULDN'T-!

HE WAS-

HE WAS-!

HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A SOLITARY MAN, HE MIGHT NOT HAVE LIKED OTHER PEOPLE, BUT HE WOULDN'T HAVE KILLED THEM! HE WASN'T THAT TYPE OF PERSON!

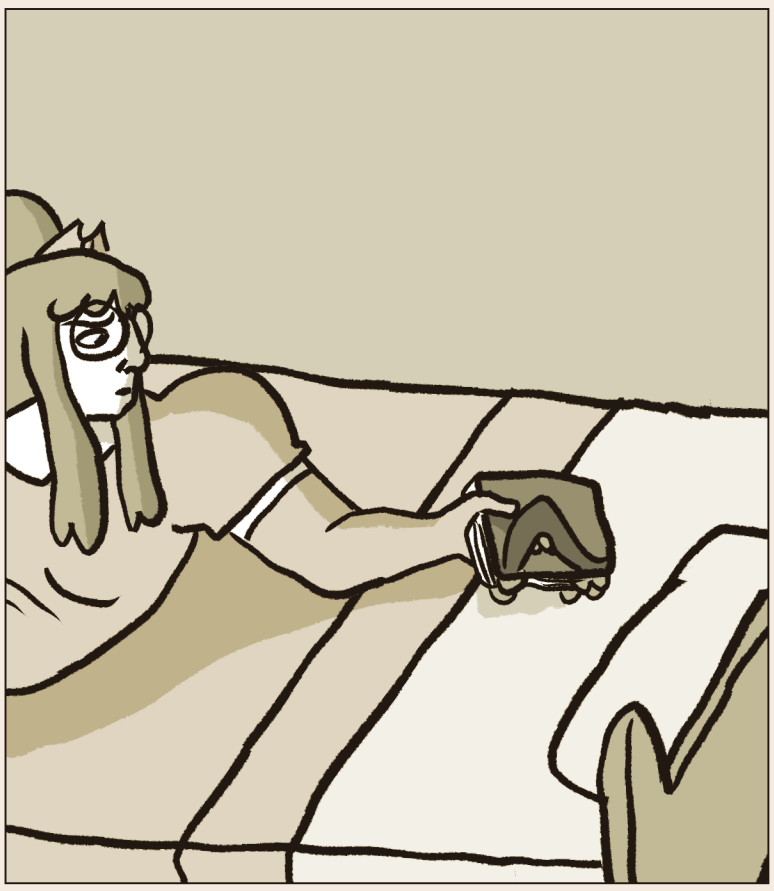
I DIDN'T-

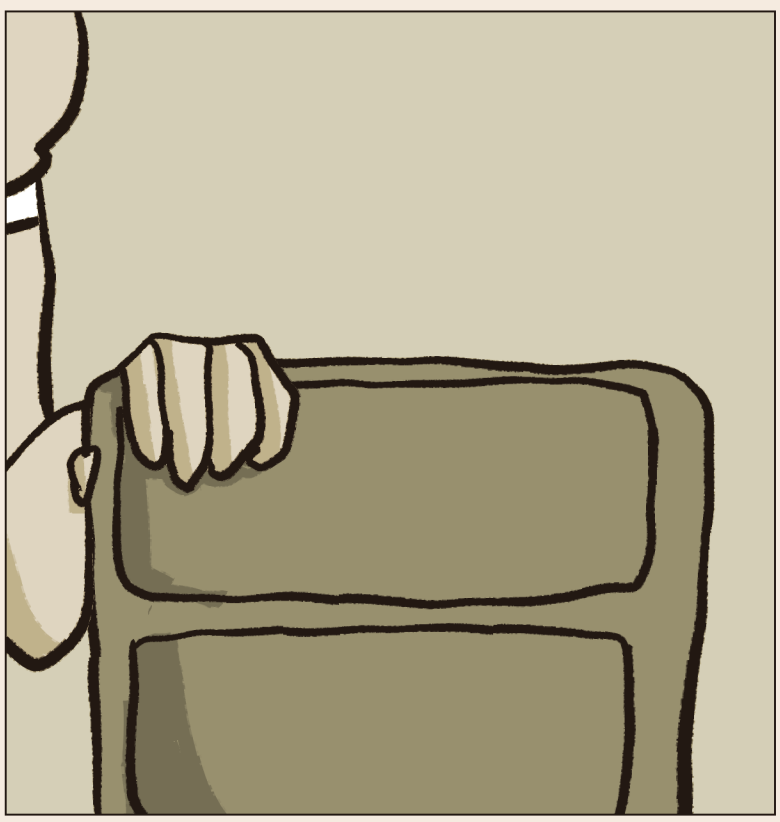
I'M SORRY-

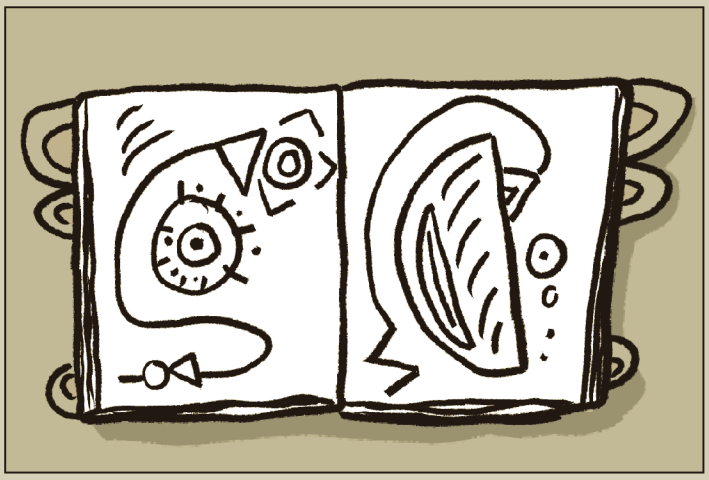
TOPAZ!!

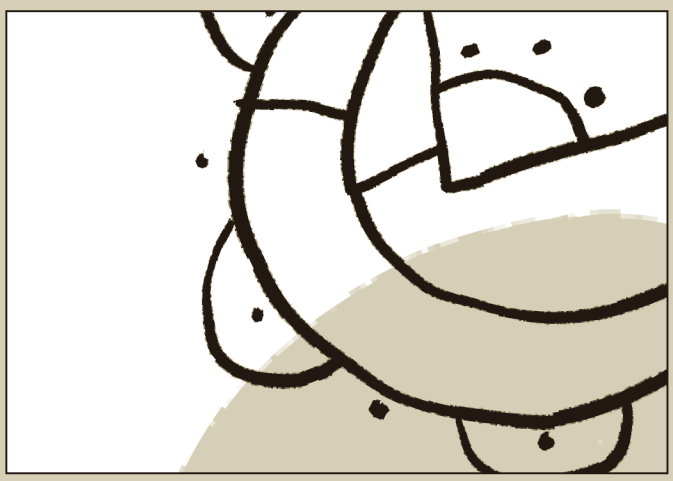
YOU DIDN'T KNOW HIM!
NO ONE KNEW HIM!
NO ONE BUT ME!

AND IF HE COULD HAVE
SAVED A HOPELESS-
IF HE KNEW THEY
WERE PEOPLE-
HE WOULD HAVE!!

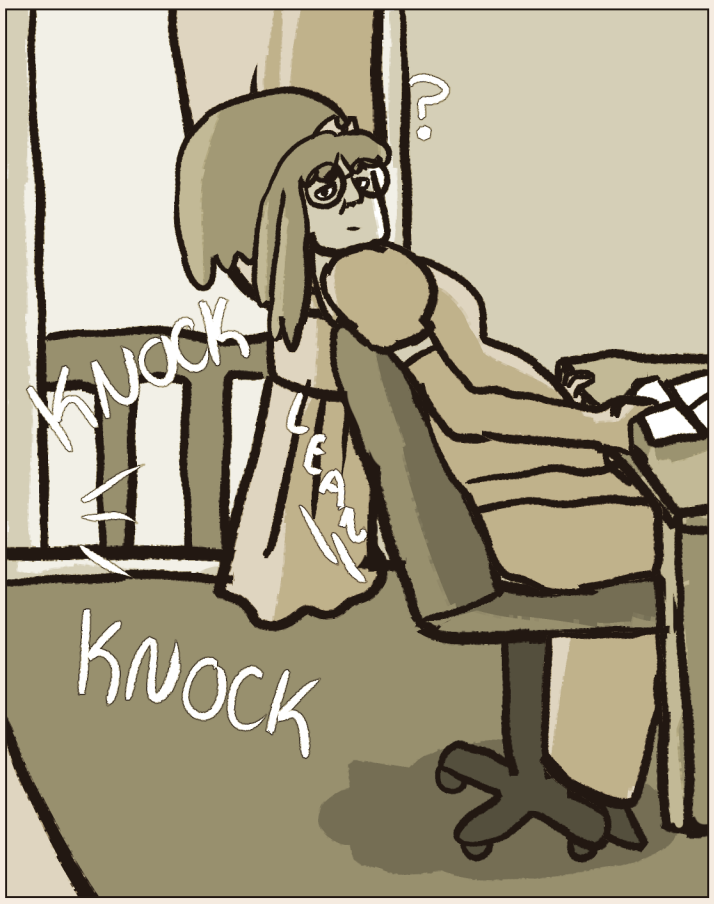


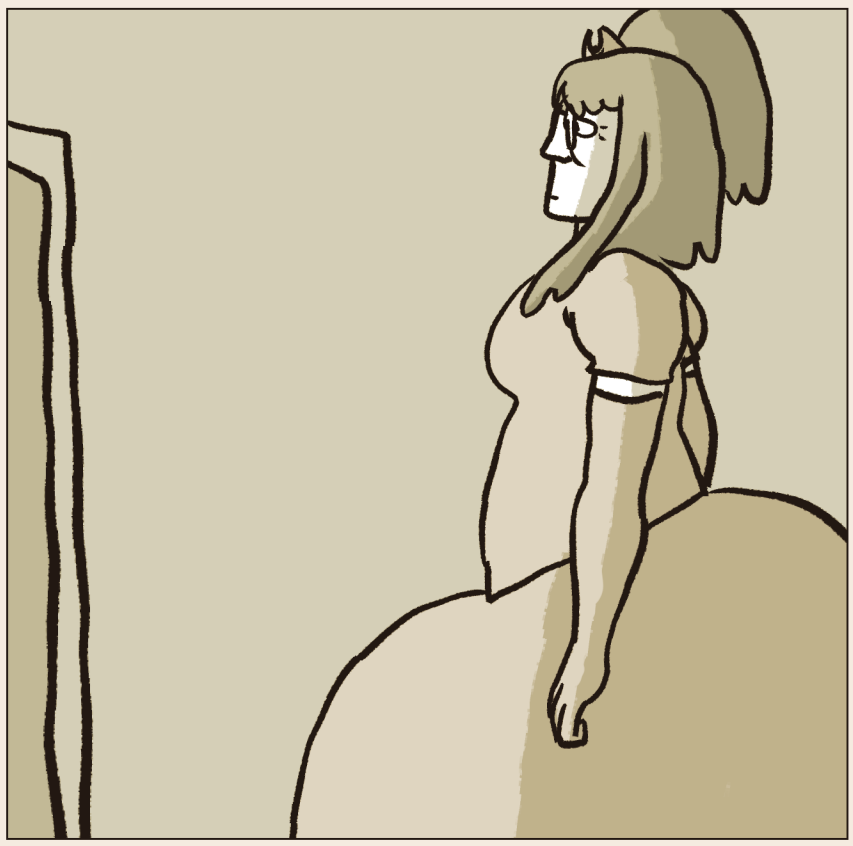


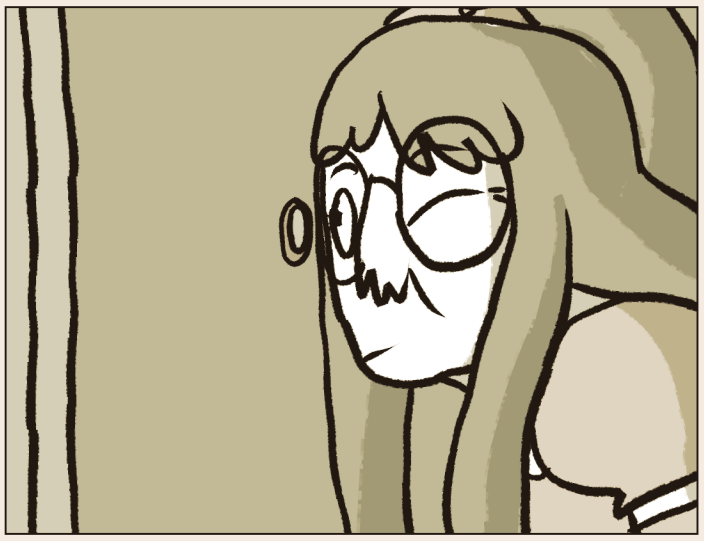


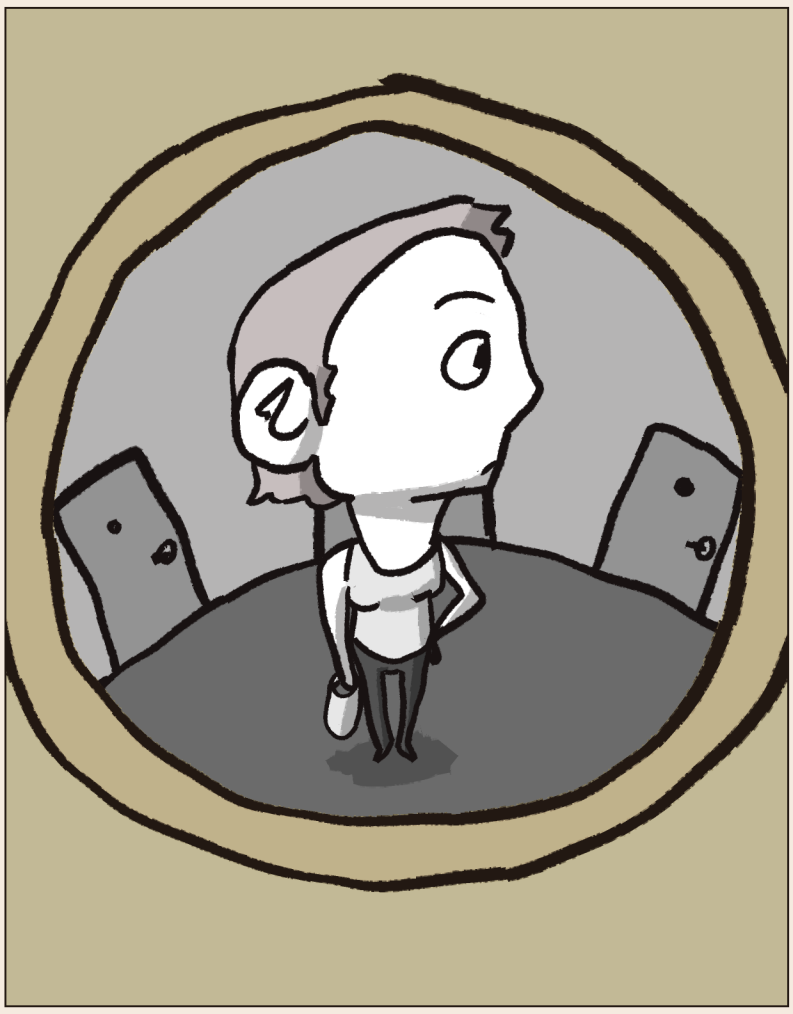


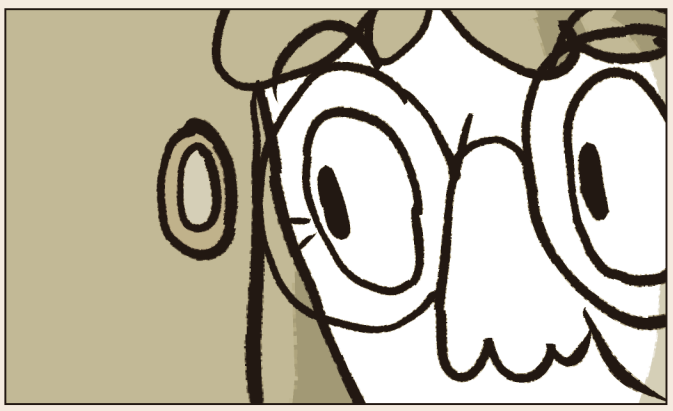
YEAH, I-I'M NOT FEELING WELL AGAIN. S-SORRY. THANK YOU.


?
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK









I CAN'T OPEN THE DOOR LIKE THIS!! BUT I CAN'T NOT GREET HER, SHE KNOWS I WASN'T AT WORK!

UM!

NOT WHAT I INTENDED!!

63

CYRUS? YOU THERE?

Y-YEEEESS. I AM. HERE. WH-WHAAAAT ARE YOU DOING? HERE?

YOU'VE BEEN OUT FOR TWO DAYS,

SO I BROUGHT SOME SOUP.

IT'S NOT HOMEMADE OR ANYTHING, BUT I FIGURED IF YOU WEREN'T FEELING GOOD- FREE FOOD, YOU KNOW?

OH. UM.

THANK YOU.

OF COURSE!

SO,

CAN YOU LET ME IN SO I CAN GIVE IT TO YOU?

UHHHHHHHHHHHH...

I'M! VERY SICK! INCREDIBLY CONTAGIOUS! SO I CAN'T OPEN THE DOOR! S-SORRY!

YOU DON'T SOUND THAT SICK.

UH.

I FIGURED IT WAS YOUR ANXIETY ANYWAY. JUST ONE OF THOSE WEEKS, HUH?

WELL...

I GET IT, MAN, IT'S OKAY. I'M NOT JUDGING YOU.

I UNDERSTAND IF YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE ANYBODY.

I'LL LEAVE THIS OUT HERE FOR YOU. FEEL BETTER, OKAY? AND I'M HERE IF YOU EVER NEED TO TALK, Y'KNOW?

...

THANK YOU.

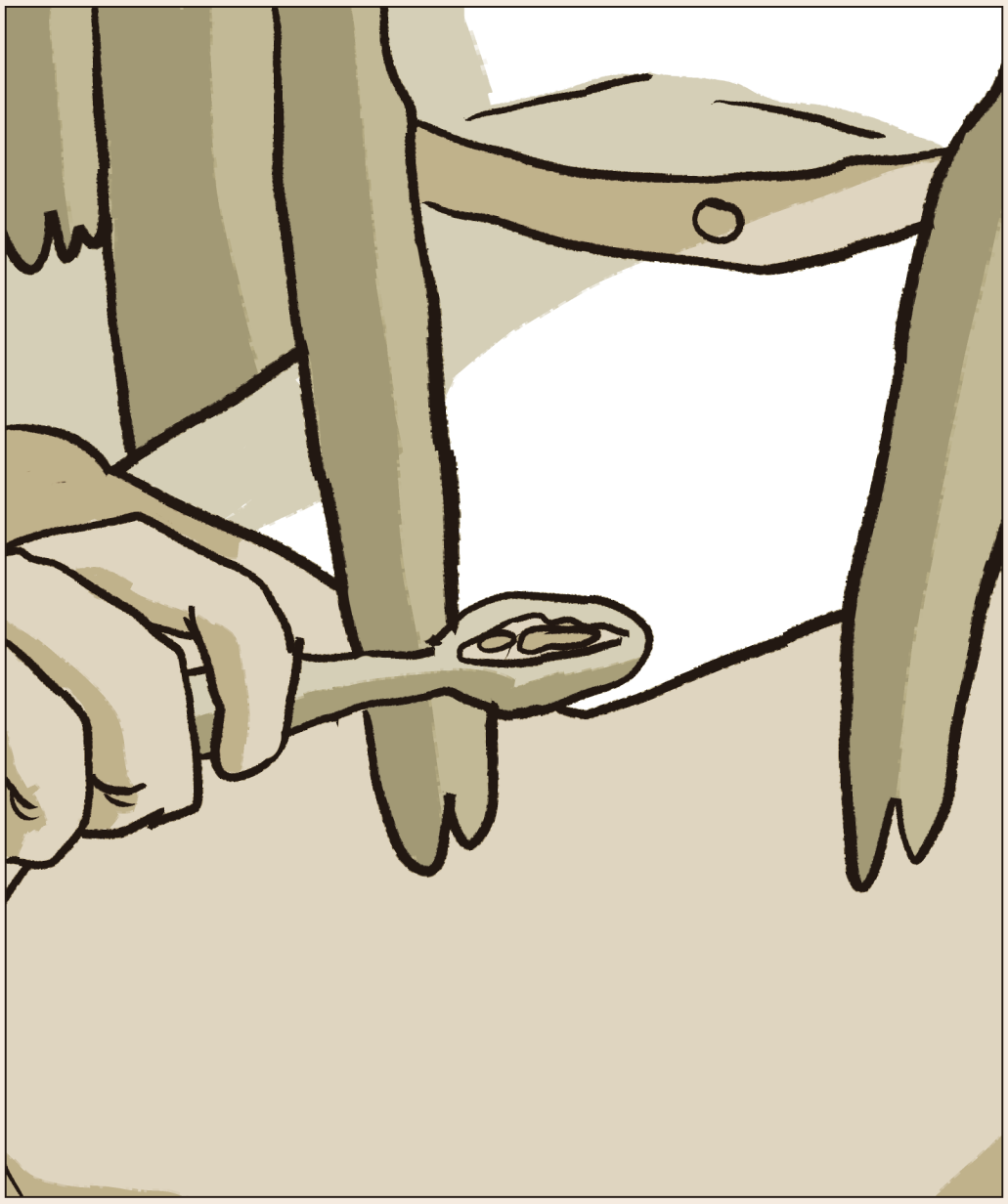
Step

Step

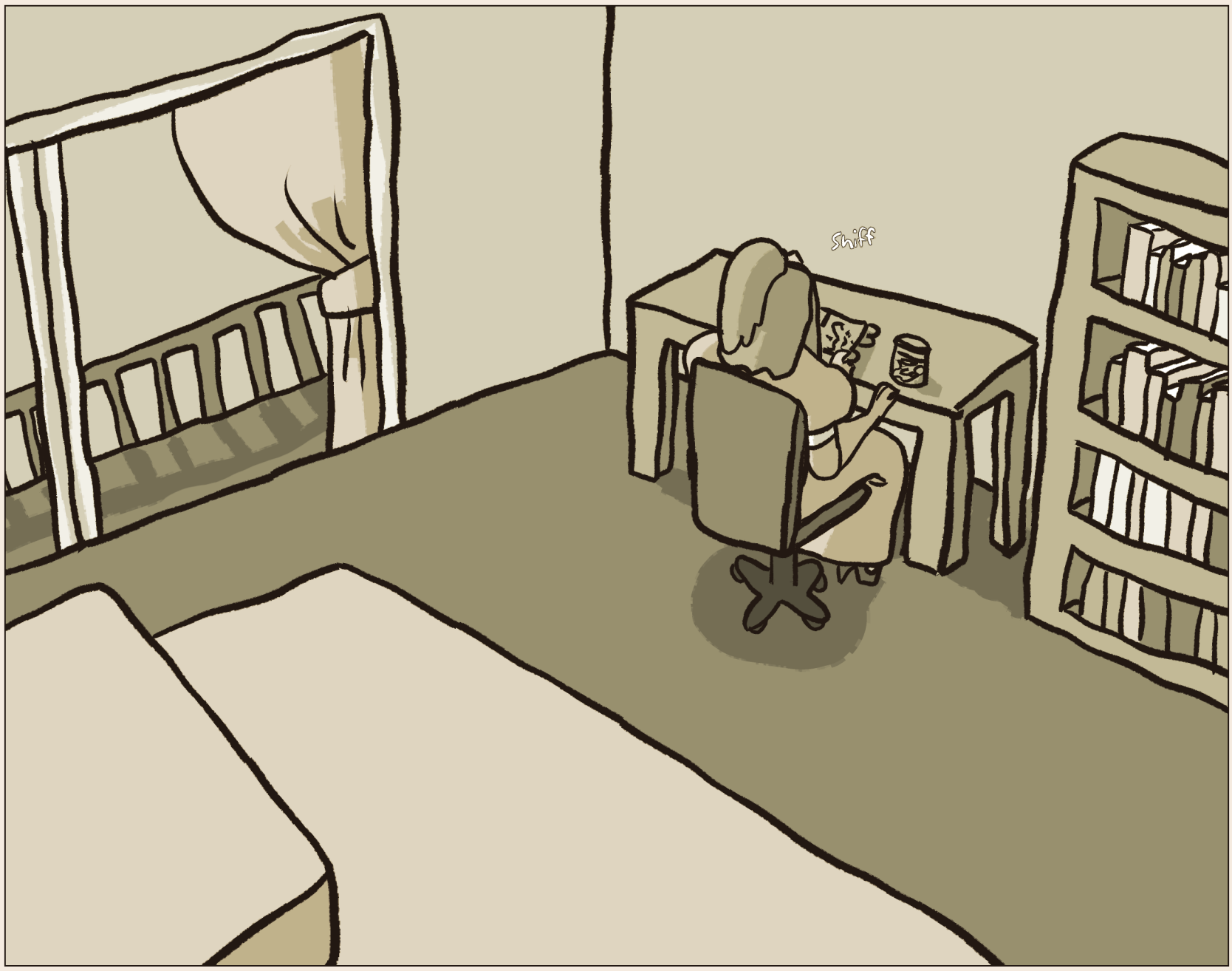
Step

Step

Step



sniff
sniff


sniff